

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:~~AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS~~

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:~~Listing of Claims:~~

1. (Currently Amended) A web offset heatset ink composition having less than about 2 wt. % of volatile organic compounds comprising an aqueous polymer latex dispersed in an ink base that comprises:

(a) a resin;

(b) a non-volatile plasticizer selected from the group consisting of tallate esters; and

(c) a pigment;

2. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein said polymer latex is acrylic styrene copolymer latex.

3. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein said polymer latex comprises a protective colloid which comprises acid functional groups.

4. (Original) The ink composition of claim 3, wherein said protective colloid is an acrylic styrene polymer.

5. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1 wherein said polymer latex has amine functional groups.

6. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein said resin has acid functional groups.

7. (Original) The ink composition of claim 5, wherein said resin is a high acid number resin.

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8. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile plasticizer is ethylhexyl tallate.

9. (Original) The ink composition of claim 1 having about 1 wt. % volatile organic compounds.

10. (Original) A method for increasing drying or setting speed of a web offset heatset ink composition having less than about 2 wt. % of volatile organic compounds and which comprises:

(a) a resin;

(b) a non-volatile plasticizer selected from the group consisting of tallate esters; and

(c) a pigment;

said method comprising adding to said ink composition an aqueous polymer latex.

11. (Original) The ink of claim 10 wherein said polymer latex has amine functional groups.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said polymer latex is acrylic styrene copolymer latex.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said polymer latex comprises a protective colloid which comprises acid functional groups.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said protective colloid is an acrylic styrene resin.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said non-volatile plasticizer is ethylhexylatallate.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said resin has acid functional groups.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said resin is a high acid number resin.

18. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said ink composition contains about 2 to 10 wt.% volatile organic compounds.

19. (Original) A method of increasing shelf stability of a Web Offset heatset ink composition which has less than about 2 percent by weight of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and which comprises:

(a) an ink resin;

(b) a non-volatile plasticizer selected from the group consisting of tallate esters; and

(c) a pigment;

said method comprising adding to said ink composition an aqueous polymer latex and a protective colloid which comprises acid functional groups.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said polymer latex has amine functional groups.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said polymer latex is acrylic styrene copolymer latex.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein protective colloid is an acrylic styrene resin.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said non-volatile plasticizer is ethylhexyltallate.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said resin comprises acid functional groups.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said resin is a high acid number resin.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said ink composition contains about 10 wt. % of volatile organic compounds.

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